



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**OCTOBER 6, 2004**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## PROJECT CEASEFIRE

### **ST. JOSEPH WOMAN INDICTED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a St. Joseph, Mo., woman was indicted by a federal grand jury today for being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's indictment is part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

**Lolita L. Watson**, 39, of St. Joseph, was indicted by a federal grand jury in Kansas City for being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Watson** was in possession of a Squires Bingham .22-caliber rifle on April 24, 2004. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for anyone who has been convicted of a felony to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Watson** has a 1994 criminal felony conviction for distributing a controlled substance and a 1994 criminal felony conviction for possession of a controlled substance.

**Watson** was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Sept. 28, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Christina Y. Tabor. It was investigated by the St. Joseph, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

## Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and

local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)